

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044846

FOLLOWING REPEATS COTONOU 331 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN
LOME 23 FEB

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0331

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, DM, AFSP

SUBJ: MEETING WITH GEN SOGLO ON CHANCERY AND TREATMENT OF
AMB

REF (A) COTONOU 273, (B) COTONOU 260.

1. AFTER OVER A WEEK OF FUTILE ATTEMPTS, GEN CHRISTOPHF
BOGLO (LANDLORD OF CHANCERY COMPLEX) FINALLY SAW FORNMIN
ALLADAYE FEB 19 RE THE CHANCERY. THE MIN BLATANTLY LIED TO
THE GENERAL, CLAIMING TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANY EVICTION
NOTICE AND THEN DENYING HAVING DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH
AMB. HE TRIED TO PUT SOGLO OFF BY DISMISSING THE MATTER AS
A POSSIBLE ERROR CAUSED BY CONFUSION BETWEEN CONFISCATED ZINSOU
PROPERTY (THE RESIDENCE) AND THE CHANCERY. MIN SAID HE WOULD
CONDUCT ANY INVESTIGATION AND APPRISE SOGLO OF THE RESULTS.

2. COMMENT: PERHAPS WE ARE GRASPING AT STRAWS, BUT EMBASSY
SEES IN ALLADAYE LIES THE MAKING OF A RETREAT. THE GPRB MAY
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USE EXCUSE OF "MISTAKEN" OWNERSHIP AS A FACE SAVING WAY OUT

OF A CONFRONTATION OVER THE CHANCERY (END COMMENT).

3. GEN SOGLO EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY HIS INDIGNATION OVER THE TREATMENT RECEIVED BY THE AMB AT THE HANDS OF THE GPRB. HE HAD A SURPRISING NUMBER OF DETAILS ABOUT THE "PEOPLES' COURT." THE GEN REPORTS THE AMB'S TWO MYSTERIOUS INQUISITORS WERE POLITBUREAU MEMBERS GRATIEN CAPO-CHICHI, PERFECT OF THE QUEME PROVINCE, AND SIMON OGOUMA, PREFECT OF THE ATLANTIQUE PROVINCE, BOTH OF WHOM ARE RADICAL EXTREMISTS. AT THE TIME OF THE MOST RECENT CABINET SHUFFLE, CAPO-CHICHI HAD ATTEMPTED TO PRESSURE KEREKOU INTO GIVING HIM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO. OGOUMA ALSO WANTED A MINISTERIAL POST. KEREKOU CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO ALLOW CIVILIANS INTO THE CABINET. AS A SOP TO CAPO-CHICHI'S INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE INVITED HIM TO THE INQUISITION". SOGLO SAID HE WAS THE ONE WHO WAS PARTICULARLY NASTY TO THE AMB. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT FORN-MINISTRY FIR FOR WESTERN EUROPE/NORTH AMERICAN CAKPO, APPALLED BY WHAT HAPPENED, HAS BEEN TALKING. SOGLO HEARD FIRST OF THE AMB'S MISTREATMENT FROM LUIZ ANGELO (SOGLO'S LAWYER AND ONE-TIME DAHOMEAN AMB TO NIGERIA), BUT SAYS THE STORY IS SPREADING WIDELY. PEOPLE WHO HAVE WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THE PRESS ATTACKS ON THE US., THE GEN SAYS, ARE CONDEMNING THEIR GOVT FOR THIS AFFAIR. CHESHES UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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